THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir. Permission has been accorded to Government of Maharashtra to the Entry Tax on Motor Vehicles into Local Areas.

(b) The Central Government is in favour of abolishing Octroi.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Entry Tax on Motor Vehicles, levied by the Government of Maharashtra, envisages reducing the disparity, prevalent amongst various States and Union Territories as a result of levying low rates of Sales Tax as compared to the sales tax rates prevalent in Maharashtra. This tax is not likely to create any hindrance to the free flow of traffic, as vehicles merely passing through Maharashtra or being temporarily used in the State would not be subject to the tax and only those vehicles required to be registered in Maharashtra under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, would be liable to pay the tax.

Withdrawal of the New Year greetings by Air India/Indian Airlines

975. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the Hindi daily, 'Nav Bharat Times' dated January 2, 1988 that Air India/Indian Airlines had despatched a large number of telex messages to withdraw/withhold its New Year greetings etc.;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred on all communications for this purpose and also on diaries, calendars, greeting cards, etc. already printed or distributed for the New Year; and

(c) whether the messages sent were according to instructions from finance ministry to economise on wasteful expenditure, if so, the reasons for the implementation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Airlines did not print any Calendars|Diaries|Greeting Cards for 1988. As regards Air India, the report that Air India sent hundreds of messages for withdrawing|withholding greeting cards and calendars is erroneous. The Ministry of Finance had issued instructions in November, 1987 that no expenditure should be incurred from Government funds on printing and distribution of Calendars|Diaries|Greeting Cards in connection with the new year and other festivals.

By the time these instructions were received by Air India they were already distributing calendars|greetings cards for the year 1988. Air India have incurred the following expenditure on thes items:—

1. Diaries	Rs. 5,50,000|-
2. Calendars	Rs. 40,42,250|-
3. Greeting Cards	Rs. 3,10,882|-

Renovation of the Airliner for the purpose of P.Ms visit to Canada and U.S.A. etc.

976. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total cost of the renovations of the Airliner Jet 747 and the stand by one for use during the Prime Minister's recent visit to Canada, USA, etc. and the foreign exchange components therein;

(b) names of countries from which various items were imported for the purpose and at what cost;

(c) the expenditure and also foreign exchange components therein incurred by Government in connection with this trip;

(d) whether some flights of Air India were cancelled as a consequence thereof;